

Learning English with CBC Calgary

Weekly newscast

January 11th 2012

Lessons prepared by Justine Light & Barbara Edmondson

Objectives of the weekly newscast lesson

- to develop listening skills at the CLB 4 level
- to increase vocabulary among learners
- to increase knowledge of news stories
- to provide a self-study tool, as well as, an ESL classroom resource



www.alberta.ca

<http://www.cbc.ca/calgary/learning-english/>

News story #1

Before you listen to the first news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Vocabulary

Match the words with their definitions. *Answers are in the appendix.*

	Word	Definition
	1. commissioner	a) to put off / to not happen for a certain amount of time
	2. apologize	b) temporary, for a short time until something better is found
	3. lockout	c) perfectly; with confidence
	4. delay	d) someone appointed to ensure the rules of the sport are followed
	5. news conference	e) trying to achieve
	6. in favour	f) when an employer does not allow employees to go to work until a problem is solved
	7. tentative	g) a meeting to explain something to the media, like TV, newspapers and radio
	8. deal	h) to support; to agree with something
	9. exactly	i) to say you are sorry for doing something wrong
	10. aiming	j) an agreement

Extra definitions to help you understand the reading:

make it up to: (idiom phrase) to do something as a way of apologizing; to make something right.

Now listen to the first news story from the audio file.

Listening activity: Multiple Choice

Choose the best answer to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. Gary Bettman is _____	a) an NHL fan. b) the NHL commissioner.
2. The NHL lockout _____ by three months.	a) was announced to fans b) delayed the start of the hockey season
3. In a news conference it was announced that NHL owners voted _____	a) in favour of the new agreement with their players. b) in favour of apologizing to the fans.
4. The players and owners reached _____ _____ to end the lockout.	a) a tentative deal b) an important decision
5. Bettman _____ what the league would do to make it up to the fans.	a) said exactly b) wouldn't say exactly
6. The NHL is aiming for a _____ starting _____.	a) 40 game season / January 9 th b) 48 game season / January 19 th

Discussion Question

What do you think about the NHL lockout? Many people are angry that hockey players make more money than soldiers, teachers, doctors, etc. What do you think about the salary of sports professionals?

News story #2

Before you listen to the second news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Vocabulary

Use one of the vocabulary words below to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

rural(countryside)	virtual (almost)	season(period of time)
outbreak (start of something bad)	infected (sick)	elective (chosen not required)
cancelled (stop)	urged(persuaded)	advised (suggested)

Extra vocabulary: **burst at the seams:** to be completely full

perfect storm: a terrible situation caused by a number of things happening at once

1. There has been an _____ of flu at my workplace.
2. I _____ my son to take a warm coat.
3. The teacher _____ us to study for the exam.
4. I cut my finger and now it is _____.
5. December is the _____ for shopping.
6. The students wrote the essay in _____ silence.
7. The farmer could never live in the city after spending his whole life in a _____ area.

Now listen to the second news story from the audio file.

Listening Activity: Short Answer

Read and answer the questions below. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. Which two illnesses are causing so many people to get sick right now in Calgary?
2. How many Continuing Care Centres and hospitals in Calgary have reported outbreaks of Norovirus?
3. How has the flu and norovirus affected elective surgeries?
4. Where are sick people being advised to go instead of hospital?
5. What else can Calgarians do to take to avoid getting sick?

Discussion Question

Did you get a flu shot this year? Have you had the flu? What are the symptoms of the flu?

News story #3

Before you listen to the third news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Vocabulary - Read the definitions below, and then put the sentences in the correct order. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Words and Definitions
wildfires – fires in the wild that are difficult to control or put out.
on record – files or documents kept about the history of events
relief – to remove or decrease difficulty or pain
risk – serious chance or possibility of a bad thing happening
expected – believe will happen

1. In mountains. the the in summer there wildfires sometimes are

2. Australia record. recently day had its on hottest

3. When over sense exams a are feel of students relief.

4. you Gambling because lose is might a your risk money.

5. to weather next be is warmer expected week. The

Now listen to the third news story from the audio file.

Listening Activity: True/False

Decide whether the statements below are **true** or **false**. Write your answer in the blanks. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. ____ Australia has been having record high temperatures this summer.
2. ____ On Wednesday the temperature cooled.
3. ____ The cool temperatures increase the risk of wildfires.
4. ____ The hottest day on record in Australia was 33.4 degrees Celsius.
5. ____ Already this year Australia has had 4 out of 10 of its hottest days on record.
6. ____ Firefighters are fighting around 200 fires in the north east of Australia.
7. ____ Four years ago fires killed 173 people and destroyed more than 2,000 homes.

Discussion Question

In summer when there is a risk of wildfires what should people do and not do to prevent forest fires.

Language Focus

Noticing Comparatives and Superlatives

Comparatives are adjectives we use to compare two things, ideas or concepts. Comparatives show how two things are related to each other.

Superlatives are adjectives we use to compare three or more things, ideas or concepts. Superlatives show how things are related to each other.

Forming the comparative and superlative

Adjective form	Comparative	Superlative
1- syllable with more than one consonant at the end, or more than one vowel	-add _____er than smaller, taller, colder, longer, louder	- add the _____est smallest, tallest, coldest, longest, loudest
1- syllable ending with an e	-add _____r than <i>cuter, wider, wiser</i>	- add the _____est <i>cutest, widest, wiser</i>
1- syllable ending with one vowel and one consonant	-add (second consonant) ____er than hotter, bigger, thinner	-add the _____ (second consonant) _est hottest, biggest, thinnest
2- syllables ending in y	Change y to i and add __er happier, busier	Change y to i and add __est happiest, busiest
2- syllables or more	more _____ than more interesting than, more creative than	the most _____ the most interesting the most creative

Look at some example sentences to see how the comparative and superlative are used:

The weather in Alberta is **colder than** the weather in California. Antarctica has **the coldest** weather on earth.

My sister is **busier than** my brother. My sister is **the busiest** person in our family.

English is **more interesting** than math. Science is **the most interesting** subject.

Look at some example sentences from the audio to see how the comparative and superlative are used:

Australia had its hottest day on record, Monday....

Cooler weather conditions brought relief to firefighters...

Transcripts of Weekly news stories

	JANUARY 11 TH WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi, this is Nirmala Naidoo. You're listening to Learning English with CBC for January 11th.	0:00
Story 1	Gary Bettman says he's sorry. The NHL commissioner has apologized to hockey fans for the lockout that delayed the start of the season by three months. The apology came during a news conference to announce that NHL owners voted in favour of the new agreement with their players. The two sides reached a tentative deal to end the lockout early Sunday morning. Bettman wouldn't say exactly what the league would do to make it up to the fans. The NHL is aiming for a 48 game season starting January 19th.	0:12
Story 2	Calgary hospitals are bursting at the seams because of flu and other illnesses. There are simply no beds available and many patients are being treated in hallways, or being sent to rural hospitals. The problem is because of a virtual perfect storm in the healthcare system. It's flu season - but there's also an outbreak of Noro-virus that's filling up beds and Emergency Rooms. Thousands are infected. There have been more than twenty outbreaks of Noro-Virus at continuing care centres and on hospital wards in the city. To deal with the lack of hospital beds several elective surgeries have been cancelled. Patients who are sick are being urged not to go to E.R but to seek help from medical clinics instead. People are also being advised to get their flu shots.	1:07
Story 3	Record temperatures across southern Australia cooled Wednesday, reducing the danger from many wildfires but this change in weather is likely only a short break from the summer's extreme heat and fire risk. Australia had its hottest day on record, Monday, with a nationwide average temperature of 40.33 degrees Celsius. Four of Australia's hottest 10 days on record have been in 2013. Cooler weather conditions brought relief to firefighters, who were fighting around 200 fires across Australia's southeast. But the risk from fire was expected to increase again with rising temperatures. Wildfires are common during the Australian summer. Fires in February 2009 killed 173 people and destroyed more than 2,000 homes.	2:30

Answer keys

News story 1

Vocabulary

	Word	Definition
d	1. commissioner	a) to put off / to not happen for a certain amount of time
i	2. apologize	b) existing for a short time until something better is found
f	3. lockout	c) perfectly; with confidence
a	4. delay	d) someone appointed to ensure the rules of the sport are followed
g	5. news conference	e) trying to achieve
h	6. in favour	f) when an employer does not allow employees to work until certain terms have been met
b	7. tentative	g) a meeting to explain something to the media (and the public)
j	8. deal	h) to support; to agree with something
c	9. exactly	i) to say you are sorry for doing something wrong
e	10. aiming	j) an agreement

Listening

1. Gary Bettman is _____	a) an NHL fan. b) the NHL commissioner.
2. The NHL lockout _____ by three months.	a) was announced to fans b) delayed the start of the hockey season
3. In a news conference it was announced that NHL owners voted _____	a) in favour of the new agreement with their players. b) in favour of apologizing to the fans.
4. The players and owners reached _____ to end the lockout.	a) a tentative deal b) an important decision
5. Bettman _____ what the league would do to make it up to the fans.	a) said exactly b) wouldn't say exactly
6. The NHL is aiming for a _____ starting _____.	a) 40 game season / January 9 th b) 48 game season / January 19 th

News story 2

Vocabulary

1. There has been an outbreak of flu at my workplace.
2. I urged my son to take a warm coat.
3. The teacher advised us to study for the exam.
4. I cut my finger and now it is infected
5. December is the season for shopping.

6. The students wrote the essay in virtual silence.
7. The farmer could never live in the city after spending his whole life in a rural area.

Now listen to the second news story from the audio file.

Listening Activity: Short Answer

Read and answer the questions below. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. Which two illnesses are causing so many people to get sick right now in Calgary?
Flu and norovirus
2. How many Continuing Care Centres and hospitals in Calgary have reported outbreaks of Norovirus?
Twenty
3. How has the flu and norovirus affected elective surgeries?
Many elective surgeries have been cancelled.
4. Where are sick people being advised to go instead of hospital?
Go to medical clinics instead
5. What else can Calgarians do to take to avoid getting sick?
Get a flu shot

News story 3

Vocabulary

1. In the summer there are sometimes wildfires in the mountains.
2. Australia recently had its hottest day on record.
3. When exams are over students feel a sense of relief.
4. Gambling is a risk because you might lose your money.
5. The weather is expected to be warmer next week.

Listening

1. T Australia has been having record high temperatures this summer.
2. T On Wednesday the temperature cooled.
3. F The cool temperatures increase the risk of wildfires.
4. F The hottest day on record in Australia was 33.4 degrees Celsius.
5. T Already this year Australia has had 4 out of 10 of its hottest days on record.
6. F Firefighters are fighting around 200 fires in the north east of Australia.
7. T Four years ago fires killed 173 people and destroyed more than 2,000 homes.